

Great Reads

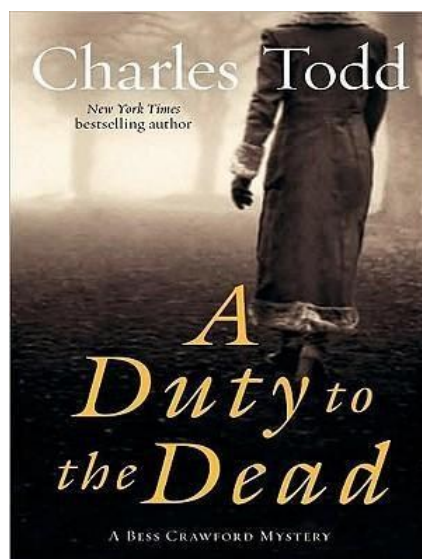
From mysteries to histories, these are the books your friendly neighborhood librarians couldn't put down!



Mystery

A Duty to the Dead, by Charles Todd.

The Publisher writes: Independent Bess Crawford's upbringing is far different from that of the usual upper-middle-class British gentlewoman. At the outbreak of World War I, she volunteers for the nursing corps, serving from the battlefields of France to the doomed hospital ship "Britannic." On one voyage, Bess grows fond of the young, gravely wounded Lieutenant Arthur Graham. Something rests heavily on his conscience, and to give him a little peace as he dies, she promises to deliver a message to his brother. It is some months before she can carry out this duty, and when she's next in England, she herself is recovering from a wound. When Bess arrives at the Graham house in Kent, Jonathan Graham listens to his brother's last wishes with surprising indifference. Unsettled by this, Bess is about to take her leave when sudden tragedy envelops her. She quickly discovers that fulfilling this duty to the dead has thrust her into a maelstrom of intrigue and murder that will endanger her own life and test her courage as not even war has.

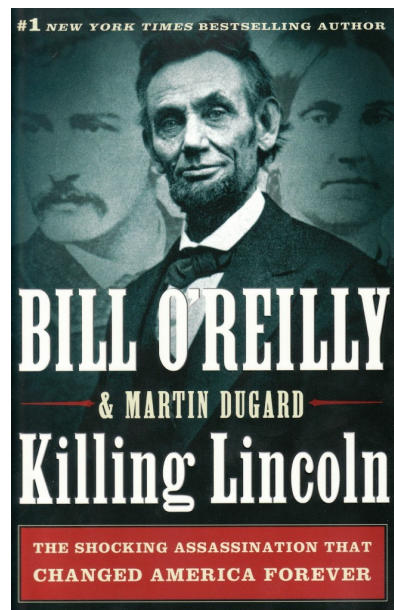


Librarian Heather Pelham says: I read two pages and I was hooked. This is one of those “I forgot to eat or sleep” books. The fascinating setting of war-torn Europe was a bonus to this riveting murder mystery .

Non Fiction

Killing Lincoln, by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard

The Publisher writes: The anchor of *The O'Reilly Factor* recounts one of the most dramatic stories in American history—how one gunshot changed the country forever. In the spring of 1865, the bloody saga of America's Civil War finally comes to an end after a series of harrowing battles. President Abraham Lincoln's generous terms for Robert E. Lee's surrender are devised to fulfill Lincoln's dream of healing a divided nation, with the former Confederates allowed to reintegrate into American society. But one man and his band of murderous accomplices, perhaps reaching into the highest ranks of the U.S. government, are not appeased.



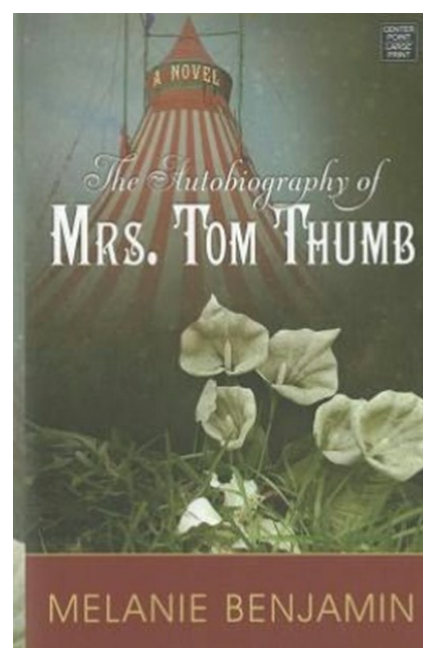
In the midst of the patriotic celebrations in Washington D.C., John Wilkes Booth—charismatic ladies' man and impenitent racist—murders Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre. A furious manhunt ensues and Booth immediately becomes the country's most wanted fugitive. Lafayette C. Baker, a smart but shifty New York detective and former Union spy, unravels the string of clues leading to Booth, while federal forces track his accomplices. The thrilling chase ends in a fiery shootout and a series of court-ordered executions—including that of the first woman ever executed by the U.S. government, Mary Surratt. Featuring some of history's most remarkable figures, vivid detail, and page-turning action, *Killing Lincoln* is history that reads like a thriller.

Librarian Julie Warren says: This is a book that everyone has talked about and I finally decided I had to read it. The authors pull you in with terrific details about all the people involved, from Booth and Lincoln to more minor characters that history has forgotten. By the end, I couldn't put it down and I learned so much about that time period and what was going on in our nation after the end of the war.

Fiction

The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb, by Melanie Benjamin

The Publisher writes: She was only two feet, eight inches tall, but more than a century later, her legend reaches out to us. As a child, Mercy Lavinia “Vinnie” Warren Bump was encouraged to live a life hidden away from the public. Instead, she reached out to the immortal impresario P. T. Barnum, married the tiny superstar General Tom Thumb in the wedding of the century, and became the world's most unexpected celebrity. Vinnie's wedding captivated the nation, preempted coverage of the Civil War, and even ushered her into the White House. But her fame also endangered the person she prized most: her similarly sized sister, Minnie, a gentle soul unable to escape the glare of Vinnie's spotlight. A barnstorming novel of the Gilded Age, *The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb* is the irresistible epic of a heroine who conquered the country with a heart as big as her dreams—and whose story will surely win over yours.



Librarian Patti Burns says: Captivating and motivating story! After reading “The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb” I wanted to learn more about P. T. Banum and the Strattons. Ms. Benjamin is also the author of another great read “Alice I Have Been.”